

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 SCCT-01 SY-05 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /049 W

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P 121445Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2528

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0291

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, NS

SUBJ: SURALCO OPERATIONS

REF : PARAMARIBO 0288

1. AMBASSADOR AND POL/ECON OFFICER RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER ARRON MORNING APRIL 12. ARRON SAID THAT GOS WAS "PROUD" OF ACCORD REACHED LAST WEEK WITH ALCOA FOR PRODUCTION LEVEL OF BAUXITE AND PAYMENT OF LEVY. HE ALSO THOUGHT WAGE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN SURALCO AND UNIONS WAS A GOOD ONE, EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD CAUSE TROUBLE FOR GOVERNMENT SINCE SURALCO MINIMUM WAGE WAS MORE THAN DOUBLE THAT OF GOVERNMENT ITSELF. AS TO CURRENT LABOR DISPUTE AT PARANAM, ARRON SAID THIS WAS NOT REALLY AN ISSUE BETWEEN SURALCO AND THE UNIONS, AS HAD BEEN THE CASE LAST FALL, BUT WAS RATHER AN ISSUE BETWEEN THE UNION MEMBERS AND THEIR OWN LEADERSHIP. HE HOPED THAT ALL WOULD BE WORKED OUT, BUT HE HAD DIRECTED THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE TO PROVIDE FULL POLICE PROTECTION TO THE PROPERTY AND THIS FACT HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

2. AMBASSADOR THANKED ARRON FOR HIS CONCERN AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DISPUTE WOULD BE WORKED OUT PEACEABLY.

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3. EMBASSY INFORMED BY SURALCO THAT UNION LEADERSHIP

DID IN FACT RESIGN OVER WEEKEND BUT WAS ASKED TO STAY ON
FOR TRANSITIONAL PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS UNTIL NEW LEADERSHIP
CHOICE CAN BE MADE. COMPANY FEELS IT THUS HAS AT
LEAST A REPRIEVE AND THAT TIME MAY LESSEN
TENSIONS AND PERMIT SITUATION TO BECOME NORMAL AGAIN.
ZURHELLEN

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Message Attributes

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